



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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ICE repatriates former Mexican police officer wanted for role in Sinaloa drug “massacre”

LOS ANGELES – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers today repatriated a former Mexican police officer wanted in his native country for his role in a drug-related “massacre” last year in the state of Sinaloa that left five persons dead and two others critically wounded.

ICE transported Jose Ines Gallardo-Rodriguez, 29, to the border crossing at San Ysidro this morning where he was turned over to Mexican immigration officials, ending a year-long manhunt. Gallardo was arrested Tuesday afternoon on immigration violations by members of ICE’s fugitive operations team and the U.S. Marshals Pacific South West Regional Fugitive Task Force. Gallardo, aka “El Mami,” offered no resistance when he was taken into custody outside his Los Angeles residence located at 13527 Hillview Place. When approached by the officers, Gallardo appeared surprised and nervous. Upon questioning, he admitted he has been in the country illegally since December 2005 and was working at a Los Angeles area warehouse.

The former Sinaloa State police officer is the last of the five suspects charged in connection with the deadly shootings to be captured. The Mexican Attorney General’s Office alleges Gallardo and the other suspects, including three of Gallardo’s fellow police officers, served as enforcers for Erikson Antonio Zavala Zamora, aka “El Galan,” the leader of a Sinaloa-based drug cartel. According to Mexican authorities, Zavala paid the suspects \$8,000 in U.S. currency to kill the victims, whom he believed were serving as informants for Mexican federal agents in an ongoing drug investigation.

On May 19, 2005, Gallardo, Zavala, and the other suspects allegedly kidnapped the victims, tortured them, and used an arsenal of pistols, machine guns, and AK-47 assault rifles to carry out what the Sinaloa media described as “the massacre.” The bodies were found on a road leading to a military camp outside Culiacan, Sinaloa.

Miraculously, two of the intended victims survived. Two weeks later, one of them recounted for Mexican authorities what had happened and identified the suspects involved. In September 2005, Mexican authorities issued an arrest warrant for Gallardo, Zavala, and the three others charged in the crime - Mariano Valdivieso Regalado, aka "El Pelon;" Jesus Manuel Chaparro, aka "El Chapo;" and Melesio Ojeda Castro, aka El Chuky."

"Those who think they can outrun the reach of the law by fleeing to the United States will find out otherwise," said Jim Hayes, field office director for ICE detention and removal operations in Los Angeles. "ICE is working closely with its law enforcement counterparts both here and abroad to ensure that the United States will not be a refuge for criminals or violent offenders."

Chief Inspector John Clark, Task Force Commander of the U.S. Marshals Los Angeles Regional Fugitive Task Force stated, "The arrest of Jose Ines Gallardo-Rodriguez is a perfect example of the benefits of the international law enforcement community, the judicial system, and governments working together."

The identification and removal of criminal aliens and immigration fugitives is one of ICE's top enforcement priorities. This month, ICE deployed a fourth fugitive operations team in Los Angeles to address these types of cases.

The Pacific South West Regional Fugitive Task Force headed by the U.S. Marshals Service targets violent fugitives wanted for state, local, or federal offenses. Last year, the Task Force made more than 1,100 arrests, including 57 international fugitives. In addition to ICE, other members of the Task Force include the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the U.S. Secret Service; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of the Inspector General; the California Department of Corrections/Law Enforcement & Investigations Unit; the California Department of Justice/Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement; the California Department of Justice/Firearms Division; the Los Angeles, Santa Ana, and Anaheim Police Departments; and the Sheriff's Departments of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Orange Counties.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.